AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in this application.

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Previously Amended) The alfalfa variety of claim 15 wherein the alfalfa variety has about 10% or greater faster recovery after spring green-up or after harvest.

3. (Previously Amended) The alfalfa variety of claim 15 wherein the alfalfa variety has about 20% or greater faster recovery after spring green-up or after harvest.

4. (Previously Amended) The alfalfa variety of claim 15 wherein the alfalfa variety has about 30% or greater faster recovery after spring green-up or after harvest.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously Amended) The alfalfa variety of claim 15 wherein the alfalfa variety has about 20% or greater more erect stems.

7. (Previously Amended) The alfalfa variety of claim 15 wherein the alfalfa variety has about 25% or greater more erect stems.

8. (Previously Amended) The alfalfa variety of claim 15 wherein the alfalfa variety has about 30% or greater more erect stems.

9. (Previously Amended) The alfalfa variety of claim 15 wherein the alfalfa variety has about 35% or greater more erect stems.

10. (Previously Amended) The alfalfa variety of claim 15 wherein the alfalfa variety has about 40% or greater more erect stems.

11. (Previously Amended) The alfalfa variety of claim 15 wherein the alfalfa variety has about 45% or greater more erect stems.

12. (Previously Amended) The alfalfa variety of claim 15 wherein the alfalfa variety has about 50% or greater more erect stems.

13. (Previously Amended) The alfalfa variety of claim 15 wherein the alfalfa variety has about 55% or greater more erect stems.

14. (Previously Amended) The alfalfa variety of claim 15 wherein the alfalfa variety has about 60% or greater more erect stems.

15. (Currently Amended) A *Medicago sativa* alfalfa variety comprising 'French' type alfalfa germplasm, wherein the *Medicago sativa* alfalfa variety has the following characteristics:

(a) 8% or greater faster recovery after spring green-up or after harvest compared to an adapted check variety grown under the same field growing conditions, wherein the adapted check variety is selected from the group consisting of 'WinterGold' and 'Hybri-Force 400', wherein the percentage faster recovery is determined as follows:

(1) measuring one or more plant heights (the distance from the soil surface to the top of the canopy) to the nearest centimeter, 3-7 days after spring green-up or after harvest, for the alfalfa variety and for one of the adapted check varieties;

(2) converting the plant heights obtained in step (1) to growth rate (cm/day) by dividing plant height (cm) by the number of days since spring green-up or harvest;

(3) repeating steps (1 and 2) every few days from 7 to 21 days after spring green-up or harvest;

(4) calculating an average growth rate per day for the alfalfa variety and the adapted check variety by summing the growth rates per day obtained in steps (2 and 3) and dividing by the number of measurements;

(5) converting the average growth rate (cm/day) obtained in step (4) to a percentage of the check variety by dividing alfalfa variety growth rate (cm/day) by the check variety growth rate (cm/day) and then multiplying by 100; and

(6) calculating the percent faster recovery of the alfalfa variety relative to the adapted check variety by subtracting 100 from the alfalfa variety percentage of the check variety percentage obtained in step (5); and

b) 15% or greater more erect stems at late (i.e. 75%) bloom compared to an adapted check variety grown under the same environmental conditions, wherein the adapted check variety is selected from the group consisting of 'WL325HQ' and 'WL319HQ', wherein the percentage of erect stems is determined as follows:

(1) measuring the percentage of stems standing erect (>45° from the soil surface) of the alfalfa variety and one of the adapted check varieties 30-56 days after spring green-up or last harvest, wherein the measurements are based on the following scale: 0 = 0 to 10% of stems are erect, 1 = 11 to 20% of stems are erect, 2 = 21 to 30% of stems are erect, 3 = 31 to 40% of stems are erect, 4 = 41 to 50% of stems are erect, 5 = 51 to 60% of stems are erect, 6 = 61 to 70% of stems are erect, 7 = 71 to 80% of stems are erect, 8 = 81 to 90% of stems are erect, and 9 = 91 to 100% of stems are erect,

(2) repeating the stem erectness measurements in step (1) 30-56 days after each harvest thereafter through 75% bloom,

(3) calculating an average stem erectness for the alfalfa variety and the adapted check variety by summing the stem erectness scores obtained in steps (1 and 2) and dividing by the number measurements;
(4) converting the average stem erectness scores obtained in step (3) to a percentage of the adapted check variety by dividing alfalfa variety average stem erectness by the adapted check variety average stem erectness and then multiplying by 100; and
(5) calculating the percent more erect stems of the alfalfa variety relative to the adapted check variety by subtracting 100 from the alfalfa variety percentage of the adapted check variety obtained in step (4).

16. (Previously Amended) A seed of the alfalfa variety of claim 15 or a regenerable part of said seed.

17. (Previously Amended) A pollen of the alfalfa variety of claim 15.

18. (Currently Amended) A seed of an alfalfa plant pollinated by the pollen of claim 17 or a regenerable part of said seed, wherein a plant produced from said seed or regenerable part of the seed has 8% or greater faster recovery after spring green-up or after harvest compared to an adopted check variety grown in the same field growing conditions, wherein the adapted check variety is selected from the group consisting of 'WinterGold' and 'Hybri-Force 400'; and 15% or greater more erect stems at late (i.e. 75%) bloom compared to an adapted check variety grown under the same environmental conditions, wherein the adapted check variety is selected from the group consisting of 'WL325HQ' and 'WL319HQ'.

19. (Previously Amended) An alfalfa plant produced by the seed of claim 16 or produced by a regenerable part of said seed.

20 – 29. (Cancelled).

30. (Previously Amended) A *Medicago sativa* alfalfa variety comprising 'French' type alfalfa germplasm, wherein the *Medicago sativa* alfalfa variety has the following phenotypic characteristics:

(1) faster recovery after spring green-up or after harvest compared to 'WinterGold' or 'Hybri-Force 400' when grown under the same environmental conditions in North America, wherein the faster recovery is selected from the group consisting of about 8% or greater faster recovery, about 10% or greater faster recovery, about 20% or greater faster recovery, and about 30% or greater faster recovery; and

(2) more erect stems at late (i.e. 75%) bloom compared to 'WL325HQ' or 'WL319HQ' when grown under the same environmental conditions in North America, wherein the more erect stems are selected from the group consisting of about 15% or greater more erect stems, about 20% or greater more erect stems, about 25% or greater more erect stems, about 30% or greater more erect stems, about 35% or greater more erect stems, about 40% or greater more erect stems, about 45% or greater more erect stems, about 50% or greater more erect stems, about 55% or greater more erect stems, and about 60% or greater more erect stems.

31. (Previously Amended) The *Medicago sativa* alfalfa variety of claim 15 or claim 30, wherein the 'French' type alfalfa germplasm is 'Flemish' type alfalfa germplasm.